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Control No. 2088
3 November 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: Economic Defense Intelligence Committee

FROM : Executive Secretary, EDIC

SUBJECT : Soviet Procurement of Technical Data, Models,
and Prototypes in the United States

1. The midsummer 1954 issue of the ONI Review (Secret Supplement) contains an article on "Soviet Intelligence Collection in the United States". This article provides examples of unclassified strategic intelligence being collected in this country by Soviet bloc country representatives, and indicates the intensification in recent months of this collection effort. Although not strictly within the context of economic defense, this ONI article is brought to the attention of the EDAC community since it reveals efforts of Soviet representatives to procure, in addition to unclassified technical data, "items which they are not allowed to use in the U.S. and which cannot be shipped from this country without a license as required by the Export Control Act of 1948." Knowledge of this effort is directly relevant to current action under Department of Commerce auspices to strengthen export control of technical data.

2. During recent months, Soviet representatives have attempted to procure materials relating to research and experimental studies on military, industrial and scientific matters. They have sought to obtain, often by subterfuge, copies of reports on engineering, mapping, radio, electronics, radar, explosives, chemical research, jet propulsion and rockets. Inquiries for this material have been made to the:

1. Publication Service of Library of Congress
2. Department of Commerce
3. Department of Agriculture
4. Society of Automotive Engineers
5. U.S. Census Bureau
6. U.S. Geological Survey
7. California Institute of Technology
8. Arctic Institute of North America
9. U.S. Industrial Firms (including such concerns as the Atomic Instrument Co.)

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Soviet representatives have also purchased oblique aerial photographic maps, telephone directories and street guides of important American cities and industrial centers, made sketches of such locations (including harbor installations), attended and obtained literature from the National Electronics Conference, and placed orders for microfilm dealing with such subjects as metallurgy, armorplate, supersonic wind tunnels and aircraft.

3. Export of technical data is covered by Section 371.19 of the Comprehensive Export Schedule and is administered by the Department of Commerce. A general license designated GTD authorizes the exportation of technical data to any but Subgroup A (Soviet bloc) destinations provided (1) it has not been assigned a U.S. Government security classification, or (2) if classified, the exporter has obtained permission to export from the responsible U.S. Government agency, or, (3) this general license has not been revised, suspended, or revoked in any manner as to any person within or without the United States. This Section is being reviewed in connection with the feeling in some quarters that mandatory controls should be extended to cover export of technical data to friendly countries, particularly when related to commodities for which the U.S. possesses unique technical "know-how" or where other special security considerations are involved.

4. This distribution is made for information purposes.

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Executive Secretary

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